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Libya: King Idris' obvious favoritism toward a nonroyal family is causing growing discontent among the supporters of the Crown Prince.

The 79-year-old monarch has been fostering the interests of his former wards, the sons of an assassinated court official. Umar Shahli, who has used his relationship with the King to garner substantial economic benefits, was recently appointed a royal adviser. Col. Abd-al-Aziz Shahli's closeness to the King has given him, in effect, control of the army. The conservatives around the Crown Prince see these developments as a challenge to their vested interests.

Although Crown Prince Hasan al-Rida has been officially designated heir apparent, the King has not allowed him to be trained as a future monarch. The Crown Prince is a colorless, ineffectual personality who would not disturb traditional interests.

The discontented elements see the problem of opposing the Shahlis as growing steadily more acute. In their view, the King's effort to modernize the army provides the Shahlis with an important key to future political power. Factional maneuvering against the Shahlis therefore will probably increase, particularly before the army can be made into an effective military force and the Shahlis are entrenched in power.

The stakes in Libyan politics are high. The country is not only the site of strategic Wheelus Air Base, but has also become a major world oil producing area in the past few years. During the first four months of 1969, its oil production was second only to that of Iran in the Middle East; daily production of nearly 3 million barrels results in revenues for the government of about a billion dollars annually.

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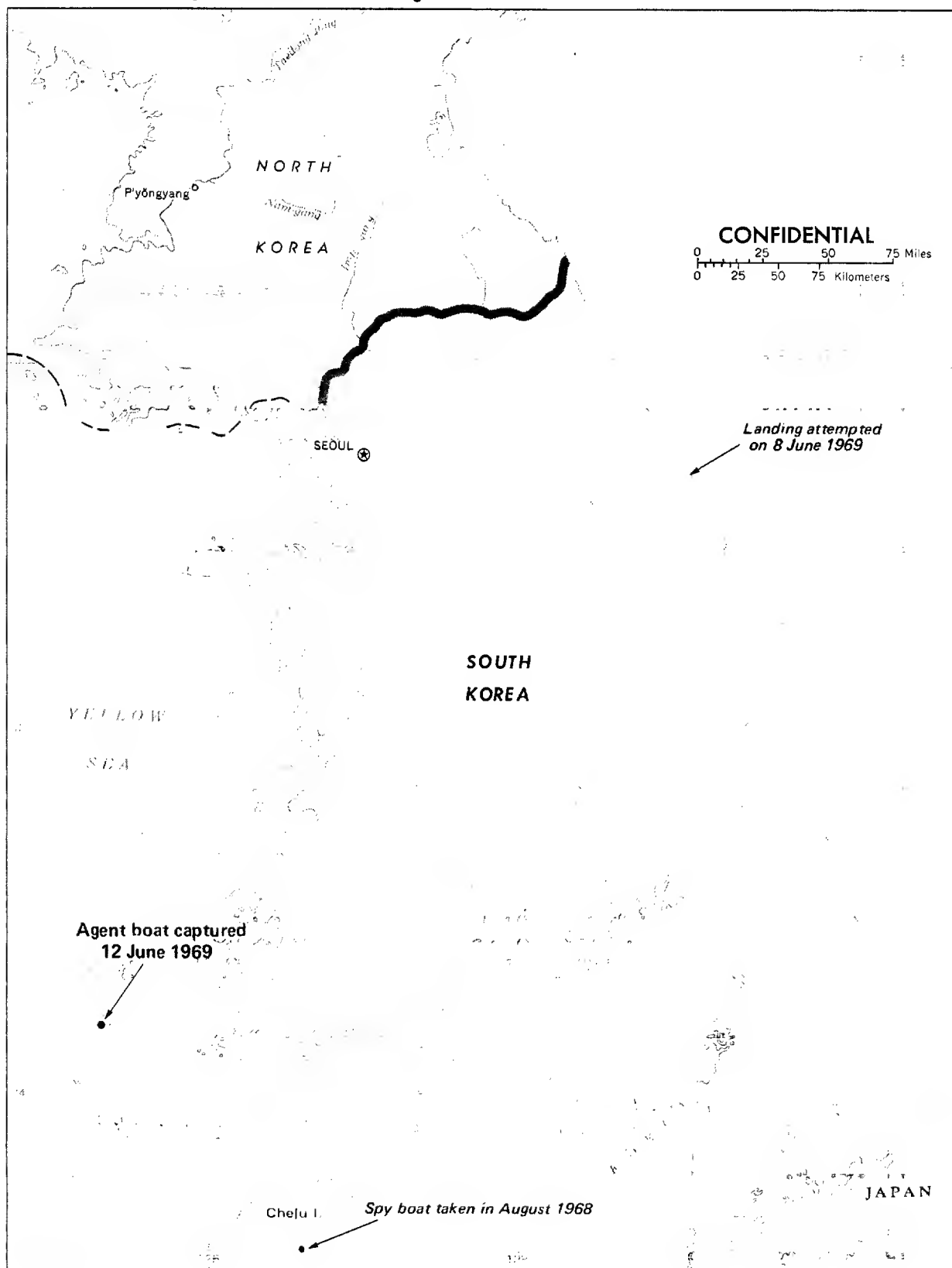
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South Korea Captures North Korean Agent Boat



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Korea: South Korean security forces have captured a North Korean agent boat and killed its 15-man crew after luring it into a carefully prepared trap off the southwestern coast of South Korea. The 75-ton spy ship was sent by Pyongyang to exfiltrate an agent who had been secretly captured and doubled by the South Korean Central Intelligence Agency late in May. A similar trap was set last August on Cheju Island which also resulted in the capture of a spy boat. This latest embarrassing reversal for Pyongyang's infiltration program comes in the wake of the abortive landing attempt on the east coast of South Korea on 8 June. (Map) 1

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